

14  
Isle of Alderney, July 10. 1849  
Tuesday

My dear Mr. May.

While hiding from the world in  
this remote & primitive island, I must not  
allow my correspondence with you to be forgotten,  
or omit to thank you for your last letter of  
May 21<sup>st</sup> acknowledging 2 letters from me. Yours  
was forwarded to me in London, where I was  
standing a fortnight in attending meetings  
of the "B. & F. Unit<sup>n</sup>. Ass<sup>n</sup>" the Lib. near Ex<sup>r</sup>? &c.  
I think I sent you an "Inquirer" with the report  
of our com<sup>tee</sup> meeting. Nothing very special  
occurred. I was on the watch during the morning  
business when Mr. Henrichs laid his plans  
in the "Protestant Unit<sup>n</sup>. Ministers", lest he might  
say anything disparaging to the Abol<sup>n</sup>. in  
connexion with these Ministers: had he done  
so, I should assuredly have defended them <sup>Abol<sup>n</sup></sup>  
& showed how unqualified Mr. Henrichs was  
to pass the judgment he did in his letters in  
the Inquirer. No reference however was made  
to Slavery, & I could not with any <sup>main</sup> prop<sup>riety</sup>  
priety, (indeed not without manifest im-  
propriety & weakening my influence) be  
the introducer of the unwelcome topic.  
The Lib. near Ex<sup>r</sup>? is a purely secular & soci-  
al one, & our annual dinner, & a soiree at  
the President's (the Bishop of Norwich) <sup>were</sup> very

Ms. B. 1. 6 v. 14 p. 3



pleasant ones, where some of the most distinguished  
scientific men of the country met: few  
Unitarians were there.

I spent some days at Hampstead, where  
an intelligent knot of Unit<sup>n</sup>. friends <sup>some of whom</sup> resided.  
~~Some~~ I met at Mr. Lalor's. . . . .  
like. The Inquirer, under his editorship is  
establishing itself. He is a spiritually minded  
man, & occupies a middle position I think  
in opinion between the two parties now appearing  
in our body, - the old Unit<sup>n</sup>: who still attach  
much consequence to doctrinal preaching; &  
a movement party, who advocate what they  
call more spiritual preaching: some of these  
almost write in H. Parker's vein of miracles;  
others are for giving up the name Unitarian;  
some more or less aim to direct attention to  
the Temperance, & Peace movements; the  
rest will do good: I wish success to every  
the section, for what we want is both more  
religious sentiment, & more effort in the  
cause of human welfare. I gave Mr.

Lalor some of your letters to read, & should  
like you to see what he says about them. I  
had his far as he has gone, his views on the  
New England question I think rational & natural.  
But he has not gone far enough: he has  
not sufficiently dwelt upon the wrongs of  
the slave to see how they ought to be removed.



to mount to every other consideration. Mr. L. has  
has a high estimate of the right of private judg-  
ment, and at w<sup>d</sup> at once take the part of any  
who were, ~~in his opinion~~, interfered with in its  
exercise. He is not acquainted with many  
of the minutiae of the A. S. movement.  
I met D. Button at Mr. L.'s; he & I had much  
talk on A. S. he too, complains of intolerance  
of your party towards those who differ from  
you, & thinks Mr. Garrison rather conceited.

The impression here (in England I mean, not  
Aldershot) is, that if an Englishman were to  
to Boston & did not entirely fraternize with  
your party, you would soon have nothing  
to say to him. I have contended against  
this notion; I believe Mr. R. Carpenter for  
with some ideas of this kind. I have told him  
I am satisfied he will find you quite fair -  
that you will give him the elements of judg-  
ment for himself, without attempting to pre-  
judice him. He has not troubled him-  
self much about Anti Slavery, & ~~is~~ not  
sign the Unit<sup>n</sup>. Address book ~~sent~~ sent to you.

Fetichism is his ~~latter~~ object of interest.  
As I have been instrumental in giving  
you the idea you have of Mr. C. I dispute with  
his Congressmen by sending you the such debate  
as came before the public, I think it hardly  
fair to the Society he has left not to say also  
that though he was certainly treated by the



managing Com: in an incorrect & injudicious manner, he was not liked by some of the leading members of the Cong: & they wished to get rid of him. Most Ministers w<sup>d</sup> have resigned a year ago upon much fewer hints than he had: but he <sup>has</sup> not much tact, & feeling he was doing good to, & much liked by many, & treated by all with great personal kindness, he could not suppose himself at all unpopular among

The additional ~~sales~~ sent from the houses for being let as beer houses instead of private establishments, was a more <sup>really</sup> trifling had Mr. R. C. been liked by all the Cong: his wish w<sup>d</sup> have been quite sufficient to cause the change he desired: as it was, the Com: w<sup>d</sup> not yield to him, or suffer his "interference", as they termed it, with the pecuniary affairs of the Socy. But the battle he fought, was entirely one of principle on his part, for he was not aware at the time, that he is now, of the unpopularity to some of the people. He was rather above the close of mind, he had to deal with many, & they could not well appreciate him. He is unmarried, & rather fond of seclusion.



2<sup>nd</sup> was somewhat again it here: besides  
there is in the Carpenter family a remark-  
able ignorance of any word beyond that  
of their own family circle & associates.  
I am sure it will be a good thing for R.C.  
to go to America: he wants to mix more  
with the world, & to be shaken a little.

On his high conscientiousness, bene-  
volence, & unselfishness, & on his perfect  
sincerity, you may place entire reliance.

My daughter & I have come to this  
island for a few weeks to visit our friends  
Mr. & the Miss Parkes. Mr. P. is  
stationed here as engineer to some ex-  
tensive government works, - the con-  
struction of a Breakwater, to form a  
harbour of refuge, there being no safe  
harbour in this part of the English  
Channel: I have also had some hope the  
fine air here, may improve my daughter's  
health, which is still very unsatisfactory.

I have suggested to Miss Kate Parkes  
<sup>my views,</sup> (and she accedes in ~~the proposition~~) whether  
it might not be well to make some good  
use of the copies of her translation of Douglass's  
Narrative, which must be lying unutilized  
upon the shelves of Pagnerre's book shop  
in Paris. It occurs to me that if



as many copies as could be recovered  
were to be sent as a present to the Boston  
Bazaar, they would find a steady sale, &  
might bring in a desirable sum. As  
Mrs. Chapman is now in France, she might  
arrange for their transmission to America,  
for a heavy duty is put on them if they come  
into England.

Paynerre will probably  
recognize only Mr. J. Oswald Murray as  
having any claim upon them, for I have  
had no direct correspondence with him.

I will write to Mr. O. Murray on the subject,  
and I shall be glad to hear from you how  
far this proposal is a good one.

What do you think now of your brother  
republicans, bombarding Rome, & murdering  
its noble citizens for the purpose of  
preventing them from being republicans,  
and <sup>for</sup> restoring the Pope? Does history  
record a more contemptible & disgraceful  
transaction! What good thing can be ex-  
pected from a people thus outraging all  
consistency, honor, & humanity? The  
cause of liberty will be under little obli-  
gations to France.

Mr. Thicks has just lost his wife; she  
& I were old friends.

Mr. James Heywood called on me at my  
hotel after the meeting of the Un. Conf. in



in London, & talked a good deal about America.  
He did not know any thing about the A. S.  
movement, beyond its connexion with the  
Free Soil party. ~~He~~ To him it least  
your opponents have not abused you, and  
any information your friends may have  
aimed to give him, seem not to have got  
into his mind. In general, his views I  
found were not favorable to America,  
tho' having seen many things & persons  
to admire, & having met with much  
attention, he would not like this to be  
repeated.

I think you wd do well to send Mr.  
Lolox some good A. S. documents. If more  
convenient, I would take charge of the  
parcel. His address is 18 Church Row  
Hampton near London, — or R. Kinder  
Esq. 2 Green Labour Court, Old Bailey  
London.

I am not able to give you satisfactorily  
the statistics of crime in England & in  
the attraction in our criminal code, but  
I will endeavour to procure them for you.  
I have heard legal men, who feared the  
abolition of capital punishment for  
forgery, express their views as generally  
disappointed at the results.



Mr. Ladd I know, sees neither the Liberator  
nor Standard; he meant to inquire if letters  
were sent to the Regt. office: I will, however,  
send one; the Standard w<sup>d</sup> probably impress  
him with <sup>the</sup> more favorable opinion of the  
old society.

The only unacknowledged letter from  
is that by the Mary Jane; but I believe  
it was an unimportant one.

The English papers I have seen, and  
I have here in this island mention the  
death of Mr. Polk, & state that your un-  
fortunate countryman C. M. Clay  
has <sup>killed</sup> a man in a duel, & been severely  
wounded himself! It is well he deserted  
the A. S. cause: he would only have damaged  
& disgraced it.

I will, as you desire, endeavour to  
wait patiently for an answer to any not un-  
reasonable inquiries about the portrait  
instituted <sup>fully</sup> ~~about~~ a year ago.

I trust the Messrs Griffiths will en-  
lighten Mr. Richardson when they return  
but with a mind so darkened by bigotry  
how is, I am almost hopeless. I presume  
the Messrs G. and the Ladies Douglass refer  
to in his account of his treatment on board  
the Alida given in his speech at the N. E. C.  
Convention in the Melodeon, N. Y. (Boston)  
Henry Clapp, Jr. occasionally figures among

MS. B. 1. 6 v. 14, p. 3



3<sup>d</sup> in England, apparently at any public meeting at which he can come forward. A few weeks since he was lecturing at Quorn. say on Am. Slaves. He can only bring before the public topics which will interest people generally in the welfare of the slave, without damaging (unless it be in private) your particular society.

I am very sorry to hear of Mr. Garrison's illness. When the intelligence of the illness of his son came hither, I both felt & expressed apprehension lest Mr. G. <sup>from</sup> in his prejudices on some subjects which it is impossible he can have investigated in a manner so as to <sup>lose</sup> ~~give~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~him~~ <sup>the</sup> judgment, might ~~have lost~~ <sup>be</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> favorable opportunity of profiting by medical skill & knowledge in his child's case. Some of the <sup>admirers of the</sup> homeopaths in this country are incurring fearful responsibilities in tampering with the health & lives of their families.

I smiled at a remark in the Liberator a few weeks ago, <sup>while</sup> mentioning what I had not heard of before, (& probably should never have known but for that announcement) that Joseph Barker was going to America, & that



"England can but ill spare him at present" 11

I can assure you England can get on with-  
out him, even should it transpire that he  
had deserted her. J. W. Barker I believe to  
be an honest man: he has probably accom-  
plished a certain amount of good among  
the uneducated classes, & especially in freeing  
their minds from theological bondage: the  
cause of Unitarianism has, I think, been  
served by him; but as a political reformer  
his extreme conceit, his extravagant  
views, and the position he occupies in this  
country of classes effectually prevents  
his doing himself any good. Friends able  
to serve him in all sensible proceedings,  
stick by him as long as they can: the  
absurd step he took in offering himself  
to represent Leeds in Parliament  
cast an irremovable colour of the ridi-  
culous over his career. With less  
high opinion of himself, and with more  
consideration & arrangement, & judicious  
management, his literary & other projects  
might have effected an amount of benefit,  
now unattainable by him. If you see him  
you will probably like him. I do not doubt



his honesty of purpose. In <sup>the</sup> procuring of a  
steam-press for him, I was not an idle spec-  
tator.

When Mr. R. Carpenter goes to America  
I may have a few things to send you: now  
I will conclude with my daughter's  
kind remembrance, assuring you that  
I am, my dear Mr. May,

Your sincere friend,

J. B. Estlin.

I have received via London from Mr.  
Mr. Johnstone of N. Y. papers or tracts  
(they are at home & I have not yet had time  
to read them) about the "Vigilance  
Committee." Is not this a society for  
assisting slaves to escape? I do not  
understand the subject. I would not expect  
to assist in the escape of any individual,  
if such a case fell in my way, but is  
not a system of giving aid to such  
fugitives affecting any decided good  
to the in carrying out pure & honorable



Anti-slavery principles? Does it not  
involve the practice of some deceit  
~~or some concealment~~. I should be thought  
fastidious, perhaps affected to say so,  
but even in the touching narrative  
of the escape of the Crafts, the deception  
they were compelled to practice, (in  
nocent indeed in them) takes off from  
the interest of the story, & makes it  
in my view, a less desirable one for  
holding up to general admiration &  
applause. I shrink from what  
is calculated to lower a quality of  
the more importance than any other  
as regards individuals & society -  
perfect truthfulness.

Thursday July 12

It is doubtful if this letter  
will reach Southampton in time for  
Saturday's American Packet. It  
goes to Guernsey to day, & to England to morrow.